

Editors' Introduction

Welcome to the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities*

Joseph F. Donnermeyer

Professor Emeritus
School of Environment and Natural Resources
The Ohio State University
donnermeyer.1@gmail.com

and

Steven M. Nolt

Professor of History and Anabaptist Studies
Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies
Elizabethtown College
nolts@etown.edu

Published September 18, 2020

<https://doi.org/10.18061/jpac.v1i1.7802>

Willkumm! This is the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* (*JPAC*), an Open Access journal published by The Ohio State University Libraries. It is the direct successor at The Ohio State University of the *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies*, which was not renewed at OSU. Articles and book reviews from volumes 1 through 6 of the earlier journal remain permanently accessible, free of charge, in the Knowledge Bank of the OSU Libraries at <https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/54888>.

JPAC is jointly sponsored by the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center in Berlin, Ohio. *JPAC* was planned by Marcus Yoder, director of the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center; Steve Nolt, senior scholar at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies; Mark Loudon, Alfred L. Shoemaker, J. William Frey, and Don Yoder Professor of Germanic Linguistics and director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Donald B. Kraybill, distinguished college professor and senior fellow emeritus of the Young Center and Elizabethtown College; and Joseph F. Donnermeyer, professor emeritus at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University.

JPAC is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to publishing both empirical and theoretical work related to Plain Anabaptist communities, including, among others, the Amish, conservative Mennonites, Amish-Mennonites, Apostolic Christians, Brethren, Bruderhof, and Hutterites. *JPAC* articles may include emerging issues associated with Plain Anabaptist communities, diverse theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches to the study of Plain Anabaptist groups, and significant research findings about Plain Anabaptist populations. *JPAC* aims to facilitate the advancement of scholarship and research on Plain Anabaptist communities in North America and around the world, and to strengthen the networks of scholars from all disciplines who examine



faith groups that emerged from the Anabaptist movement of the sixteenth century and who today maintain distinctive sectarian lifestyles and religious practices.

We begin the new journal with a theme based on selected presentations from the June 2019 conference, *Health & Well-Being in Amish Society*, organized by the Young Center. The theme of that conference reflects the growing alliance between the Amish and other Plain communities and various health care organizations. Even though Plain communities are known for their symbolic separations from mainstream North American society, they also have many symbolic and substantive associations with various outsiders, from health care professionals to workplace safety experts to local law enforcement. Navigating such alliances is nothing new for Anabaptist communities, as even a cursory view of their history reveals. One point of contention between various factions of Anabaptists in the 1600s, for example, concerned their relationships with the “true-hearted” or *treuherizigen*, who were non-Anabaptist members of state churches who nonetheless helped the Anabaptists at their own peril, especially during times when Anabaptist hunters searched throughout the valleys and mountains of present-day Switzerland, Germany, and Austria for a people who were considered enemies of the state.

As each of the articles in this issue attest, there is a learning curve when the culture associated with medical professionals meets the beliefs and values of the Amish and other Plain Anabaptist groups. Such learning will likely continue for many years to come. Media stories of the COVID-19 pandemic bear witness to some of the challenges to cross-cultural understanding and communication around the recommendations of the health care community and the lifestyles, beliefs, and preferences of those who belong to Plain Anabaptist communities.

Prospective authors and readers can access additional details about *JPAC*, including author guidelines, at <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org/about>. Recognizing the disciplinary diversity of scholars working in the field, we permit prospective authors to use one of two citation styles: the American Psychological Association (APA) style (7th edition) or the University of Chicago Press style (as codified in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition).

Finally, we follow the philosophy “the more, the merrier.” If you know a colleague who would benefit from the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* and from interaction with the journal community, please direct them to the *JPAC* website. There they can find directions for joining the journal community at <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org/notification/subscribeMailList>. At the top of that page is the “register” tab. Registrants will receive notification as new issues of the journal are published.

There is also a *JPAC* listserv, which already has nearly 300 members. Others can join by request. Contact Joseph F. Donnermeyer (donnermeyer.1@gmail.com), the OSU administrator of the listserv, with the full name and e-mail address of the person to be subscribed.

Welcome to the *JPAC* community of scholars!